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41 PORTLAND PLACE
LONDON, W. 1

TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9456

TELEGRAMS: CIBAFOND, WESDO, LONDON

30th August 1961

Prof. Joshua Lederberg,
Head,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University,
Stanford,
California,
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Although I expect to be flying over Stanford before the end of this week, I am very sorry to say there seems to be not the remotest chance of paying you a visit, and in any case you may well be away at this time of the year.

I am anxious to raise one matter with you and should be most grateful if you could send a reply to this letter to the Ciba Foundation, where it will be forwarded to me during my 2-month long and very rushed visit to the States, Mexico and Canada.

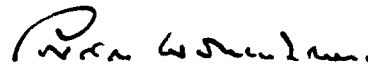
A couple of years ago you thought the Ciba Foundation might be a suitable organisation to arrange an international conference on some of the more urgent problems of space biology. It was not possible to do anything of the kind in these last two intensely busy years. Now, we are going through the throes of a very drastic reconstruction of the back of this building, which will make it impossible for us to hold any meetings here until probably October or November 1962. At that time we should like to open the new conference room with a symposium rather outside our normal range of subjects. I have been trying to work up one on international medical research, but another attractive and very different subject would be to take up the suggestion you made earlier.

I wonder whether you feel that other international organisations or other conferences have now made any such project redundant, or whether you think we might still do something useful here. You have experience of the kind of meeting we like to arrange and although our new conference room will be rather larger, we propose to limit participation in our meetings even more strictly to a maximum of 25 people. This is being done mainly in the interests of discussion and partly because we do not want too many presentations during a period of 3 or 4 days to add up to too unwieldy a volume.

If you think we still could do something worth while, I should be more than grateful for any suggestions you may care to make about the scope ~~and~~ membership of such a symposium. However, please do not delay your reply in order to work out any details. I am most anxious to get early advice from you as to whether we should entertain the idea at all.

I hope all continues to go splendidly for you, and send warmest greetings to you and your wife.

Yours sincerely,



G.E.W. Wolstenholme